

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20405

February 23, 1967

GSA BULLETIN FPMR NO. H-7
UTILIZATION AND DISPOSAL

TO : Heads of Federal Agencies

SUBJECT: Utilization of works of art belonging to the Government

1. Purpose. This bulletin requests Federal agencies to provide assistance to the Smithsonian Institution in obtaining Government-owned objects of historic or artistic value.

2. Background. The National Collection of Fine Arts (NCFA) is the office of the Smithsonian Institution responsible for the care, restoration, preservation, and display of art works. Under a major expansion program the NCFA is endeavoring to increase its holdings of art belonging to the Government. It is particularly interested in assuming custodianship of Government-owned works having historic or artistic value, such as Government-commissioned Works Progress Administration (WPA) work. Additional holdings of Government-owned art will enable the NCFA to augment its lending service to Government agencies and other museums.

3. Action. Agency property officers are urged to be alert to the possibility of uncovering items of personal property and furnishings, not considered as or a part of real property, which are in storage or being disposed of due to lack of knowledge with respect to their artistic value. In addition to paintings and sculpture (except real property items such as mural paintings and fixed sculpture), significant items might include mirrors, mirror frames, framed photographs, portraits, mantelpieces, furniture, and other objects of such age and artistic merit as to deserve inventorying and preservation by the NCFA as a work of art. This would include Victorian-style furniture, particularly those with carvings, with inlays of rare woods or other materials, or with marble tops.

4. Assistance by GSA offices. Holding agencies having such property releasable as excess are asked to notify the nearest GSA regional office. Regional Directors, Property Management and Disposal Service, will act as liaison between the holding agency and the Smithsonian Institution and arrange for appropriate documentation and instruction concerning the disposition of items being released.

5. Expiration date. This bulletin expires September 30, 1967.

John G. Harlan Jr.
JOHN G. HARLAN, JR.
Commissioner
Property Management and Disposal Service